



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

April 25, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

SEAMLESS SENIOR SERVICES INITIATIVE

Los Angeles County has the highest concentration of seniors in California. According to the California Department of Aging, the elderly population in California is projected to substantially increase over the next 20 years. The service needs of our seniors will require substantial consideration and resources. The County is taking the first steps to become better prepared and proactive in addressing the future needs of its seniors. Perhaps at no other time in history are public agencies going to be asked to make the most of their resources and to demonstrate effectiveness, quality of services, and efficiency more than they are today. A preliminary inventory of services available to our seniors shows that over 20 County departments currently provide those services.

In Los Angeles County, the senior population will grow from the current 1.4 million seniors to roughly 3.0 million. In 2006, the Baby Boomers began to turn 60 and roughly 9,000 a day turned 60 in 2007. As this population continues to age, the 85 and older seniors will have the greatest health care service needs. This explosive growth among seniors is one of the key reasons why we must undertake an effort to connect all County departments serving our seniors and eliminate the fragmentation of services. The County must join in a collaborative effort to identify all existing programs and resources to create a seamless services delivery model.

I have asked Cynthia Banks, Director of Community and Senior Services (CSS), to lead this countywide effort. Discussions on some of the preliminary undertakings have already begun.

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Objectives:

The seamless senior services initiative will address the need for an integrated delivery service system for seniors in the County and will focus on the development of a countywide plan to address the needs of seniors. The overall objective will be to implement a fully integrated case management system to deliver services to seniors in the County. Some of the initial objectives to be undertaken are as follows:

- Identify the multiple programs in the County that provide services to seniors and the collection of associated data.
- Draft a plan to address the needs of seniors.
- Establish performance outcomes.
- Design systems and organizational structures to support an integrated case management system.

Timeline:

Fully integrating the County's case management system to deliver services to seniors will be a multi-year effort. However, there are short-term initiatives that we can accomplish. The first one is to identify all of the programs in the County that provide services to seniors by June 2008. The second effort will be to look at areas where the County can easily integrate some of the existing services and/or increase the level of coordination in key programs such as In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), Adult Protective Services (APS), Area Agency on Aging (AAA), Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63), and Public Guardian services.

It is our intent to provide initial recommendations to your Board by September 2008. Other initiatives will require long-term planning and may require the allocation of additional resources. We will shortly begin the design of a master plan for seniors and will work in collaboration with community stakeholders. We should have an initial set of recommendations by the end of next fiscal year.

Cynthia Banks has invited a representative from each Board office to the kick-off meeting on Monday, April 28, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. Each County department will have a program and/or administrative level manager in attendance. If your staff has any questions or need additional information, Ms. Gutierrez is available at (213) 974-0564.

WTF: SRH:MS
GP:RMG:cvb

c: Cynthia Banks, Director of Community and Senior Services